

with ovate acute or obtusish, coarsely dentate lobes, pubescent and resinous-glandular beneath; fls. . . . in erect, loosely-flowered racemes; ovary resinous-glandular; . . . fr. black."

The only inconsistencies found in comparing the descriptions relate to the fruit. The color of the fruit which Michaux gives was probably based on specimens not fully mature. Many of the plants he collected at the end of August and early September 1803 tend to indicate that the vegetative season must have been retarded that year just as in 1946 (fide Rousseau), it was much later than in 1945 or 1944. On the other hand, Richardson's statement of the fruits being black was probably founded on that of another species since two isotypes deposited in the Gray Herbarium are those of the plant in its flowering stage only. As to the ovary, the "baccis hispidulis" of Michaux agrees with the "resinous-glandular" in Rehder. As stated above, Richardson's fruits ("glabris") were probably from another species. Plants of that interesting *Ribes* are cultivated at the Montreal Botanical Garden so that eventually, a more perfect description of the flowers and fruits will be drawn.

A very striking character noted by Michaux was the taste of the fruit: "le goût est bon, mais un peu l'odeur du Cassis". The "Cassis", i. e. *Ribes nigrum*, the European Black Currant, is characterized by the peculiar heavy odor of the leaves and fruits when bruised. The same is true with *Ribes rigens* Michx. The fact is so striking that the Indians call this Currant "*chicacominanatouk*" (skunk-berry shrub) while the other species are globally grouped under "*opiominanatouk*".

From the above discussion, it appears that the well-characterized *Ribes* described by Michaux in 1803 under the name *Ribes rigens* antedates *Ribes hudsonianum* Richardson, 1823.

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A NEW CLEMATIS FROM THE PEAKS OF OTTER.—

CLEMATIS VERTICILLARIS DC., var. **cacuminis**, var. nov., a var. typica recedit sepalis oblongo-ellipticis apice rotundatis vix apiculatis 2–3.3 cm. longis, crassioribus dorso cinereo-pilosis.—Bedford County, VIRGINIA: among rocks, roadside-bank, near summit of Sharp Top, Peaks of Otter, May 8, 1947, *Ruskin S. Freer*, no. 1385 (TYPE in Herb. Gray.).

Typical *Clematis verticillaris* DC., Syst. i. 166 (1817), based on *Atragene americana* Sims, Bot. Mag. xxiii. t. 887 (1806), has the broadly lanceolate to lance-oblong sepals tapering to acute, acuminate or even subulate tips. The sepals vary from 3–5.5 cm. long and when dry are membranaceous and almost translucent, their veins clearly visible, and their backs are only sparsely pilose or glabrescent. This typical *C. verticillaris* occurs from the Gaspé Peninsula of Quebec to Manitoba, thence south to New Brunswick, New England, Delaware, Pennsylvania, northern Maryland, West Virginia, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and northeastern Iowa. Small reports it as extending down the Blue Ridge to North Carolina. I have seen no material from the Blue Ridge of Virginia or North Carolina until the fine sheet from Professor Freer. It is not improbable that the plant of the Blue Ridge of North Carolina may be like that of the Peaks of Otter, which differs from typical *C. verticillaris* in its oblong-elliptic subcoriaceous round-tipped sepals only 2–3.3 cm. long, their backs densely cinereous-pilose. The young foliage, at flowering time is more pilose than in the glabrous or quickly glabrate wide-ranging plant.—M. L. FERNALD.

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## NOTES ON DRYING PLANTS

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A sufficient number of papers have already been published which give ample directions to collectors for preparing and collecting plant specimens<sup>1</sup>. During the past two years a few of them discussed the methods employed and relative advantages obtained in using artificial or natural heat<sup>2</sup>. While each of these articles possesses its own merits, the differences in point of view indicated might suggest that one side favored specimens natu-

<sup>1</sup> 1. BLAKE, S. F. Directions for collecting flowering plants and ferns. U. S. D. A. Dept. Circular 76. 7 pp. Jan. 1920.

2. GLEASON, H. A. and A. C. SMITH. Methods of preserving and arranging herbarium specimens. Jour. N. Y. Bot. Gard. 112–125. 1930.

3. JOHNSTON, I. M. The preparation of botanical specimens for the herbarium. Arn. Arbor. Publ. 33 pp. 1939.

4. FOGG, JOHN M. Suggestions for collectors. RHODORA 42: 145–157. 1940.

<sup>2</sup> Fernald, M. L. Injury to Herbarium Specimens by Extreme Heat. RHODORA 47: 258–260. 1945. Lundell, C. L. A useful method for drying plant specimens in the field. Wrightia 1: 145. 1946. Camp, W. H. On the use of artificial heat in the preparation of herbarium specimens. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club 73: 235–243. 1946.